

Whereas, according to Amnesty International—

(1) Las Damas de Blanco “remain[s] one of the primary targets of repression by Cuban [G]overnment authorities”; and

(2) members of Las Damas de Blanco are frequently detained and “often beaten by law enforcement officials and state security agents dressed as civilians” while in detention;

Whereas, according to the Human Rights Watch 2019 World Report, in Cuba “detention is often used preemptively to prevent people from participating in peaceful marches or meetings to discuss politics, and detainees are often beaten, threatened, and held incommunicado for hours or days”; and

Whereas the Human Rights Watch 2019 World Report noted that “Cuban Police or state security agents continue to routinely harass, rough up, and detain members of Las Damas de Blanco before or after they attend Sunday mass”; and

Whereas, in 2005, Las Damas de Blanco were selected to receive the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, but the Cuban regime did not allow members of the group to leave the island to accept the award;

Whereas Laura Ines Pollán Toledo, the founder of Las Damas de Blanco, left a legacy of peaceful protest against human and civil rights abuses in Cuba;

Whereas Laura Ines Pollán Toledo died on October 14, 2011, and while her death garnered widespread international attention, the Cuban regime remained silent;

Whereas, in February 2015, 30 members of Las Damas de Blanco were arrested in an attempt by Cuban officials to bar the women from participating in marches, which sought to advocate for the freedom of political prisoners in Cuba;

Whereas, while Raúl Castro is no longer the head of Cuba, grave human rights abuses continue under the current President of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel;

Whereas Las Damas de Blanco has appealed to the United States Government and other foreign governments in order to bring international attention to the repression of dissidents by the Cuban regime and the plight of political prisoners, who are routinely jailed unjustly and without due process;

Whereas, on May 17, 2018, Las Damas de Blanco received the prestigious 2018 Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty in recognition of the bravery of the group and its continuing efforts to fight for individual freedom in Cuba;

Whereas Berta de los Angeles Soler Fernández and Leticia Ramos Herrería, members of Las Damas de Blanco, were prohibited by the Díaz-Canel regime from leaving Cuba to accept the 2018 Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty in the United States;

Whereas, on May 6, 2018, Aymara Nieto Muñoz, a member of Las Damas de Blanco, was violently arrested and during her transfer in a patrol car, was beaten by a uniformed cop, causing Nieto to require medical attention;

Whereas, following 10 days of confinement in a cell of the Santiago de las Vegas-La Habana, Aymara Nieto Muñoz was transferred to Havana’s women’s prison, known as the Guatao, and remains detained pending a trial for an alleged “crime of attack” with other prisoners arrested for petty crimes;

Whereas this is the second time that Aymara Nieto Muñoz has been imprisoned for political reasons, as she was sentenced to 1 year of prison for an alleged crime of public disorder following a politically charged trial on June 3, 2017;

Whereas, in March 2018, Marta Sánchez González was arrested for peacefully pro-

testing and transferred to a women’s prison a month later;

Whereas, on August 2018, Marta Sánchez González faced a rigged trial and was sentenced to 4 years and 6 months of imprisonment alongside prisoners incarcerated for common crimes;

Whereas, throughout 2019, Las Damas de Blanco experienced countless arrests, acts of repression, and violent attacks intended to imperil their physical and mental state as a result of their peaceful advocacy of the release of all political prisoners;

Whereas the total number of arrests in 2019 conducted by the Cuban Police against Las Damas de Blanco is 1,120, including those of Berta Soler Fernández, who has been constantly harassed, violently attacked, and detained for lengthy periods of time, and Xiomara de las Mercedes Cruz Miranda, who was imprisoned in 2018;

Whereas, upon entering prison the first time on April 15, 2016, Ms. Cruz Miranda was in good health, but after being sent to prison for the second time in 2018, she acquired a rare skin disease in the women’s prison in Ciego de Ávila and her health began to be affected by several conditions, including tuberculosis, which severely damaged her respiratory system and her mental and physical health; and

Whereas Ms. Cruz Miranda remained hospitalized for more than 6 months in Cuba, and after her health condition failed to stabilize, she was admitted to Jackson South Hospital in the City of Miami on January 2020, thanks to a humanitarian visa granted by the United States Government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the courageous members of Las Damas de Blanco for their peaceful efforts to speak up for the voiceless and stand up to the Cuban regime in defense of human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression and assembly;

(2) recognizes the brave leaders of Las Damas de Blanco who have been arbitrarily detained due to their peaceful activism, including Marta Sánchez González, who is currently serving a sentence under house arrest, and Aymara Nieto Muñoz, who is imprisoned an extended distance from her family, which poses significant obstacles to family visits;

(3) expresses solidarity with the Cuban people and a commitment to the democratic aspirations of those Cubans calling for a free Cuba;

(4) calls on the Cuban regime to allow members of Las Damas de Blanco to attend weekly masses and travel freely both domestically and internationally; and

(5) calls for the release of all political prisoners detained and imprisoned by the Cuban regime.

SENATE RESOLUTION 82—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN ROBERT LEWIS AND COMMENDING JOHN ROBERT LEWIS FOR HIS TOWERING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE NON-VIOLENT STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. REED, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 82

Whereas John Robert Lewis (referred to in this preamble as “Mr. Lewis”) was born on February 21, 1940, near Troy, Alabama, the third of 10 children born to his mother Willie

Mae (née Carter) and his father Eddie Lewis, a sharecropper;

Whereas, at 5 years old, Mr. Lewis was given responsibility for the family chicken flock, including his favorite, Li’l Pullet, which he tended with great care and to which he would preach nearly every evening, which—

(1) led his family to give Mr. Lewis the childhood nickname of “Preacher”; and

(2) instilled in Mr. Lewis an early desire to enter the clergy;

Whereas, from a young age, Mr. Lewis insisted on attending school daily, defying his parents’ instructions to work the family farm, which established within Mr. Lewis a lifelong commitment to education and enlightenment;

Whereas when Mr. Lewis was 15 years old he was “shaken to the core”, as described in his memoir “Walking With the Wind”, by the Mississippi murder of Emmett Till, deepening his passionate opposition to segregation and Jim Crow laws;

Whereas, as a high school student, Mr. Lewis intensely followed the progress of the Montgomery Bus Boycott (referred to in this preamble as the “Boycott”) in 1955 and 1956, awakening him to the power of nonviolent resistance to segregation;

Whereas Mr. Lewis wrote in his memoir that the Boycott “changed my life more than any other event before or since”;

Whereas, while following the progress of the Boycott, Mr. Lewis was inspired by radio broadcasts featuring one of the leaders of the Boycott, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (referred to in this preamble as “Dr. King”)—

(1) whom Mr. Lewis’ parents referred to as “that young preacher”; and

(2) whose example deepened Mr. Lewis’ ambition to become a minister;

Whereas, inspired by Dr. King, Mr. Lewis, on February 16, 1956, 5 days before his 16th birthday, preached his first public sermon, entitled “A Praying Mother”, at Macedonia Baptist Church in Troy, Alabama, which came from the First Book of Samuel and discussed the example of Hannah, mother of Samuel, which sermon made such an impact that it was published in the Montgomery Advertiser newspaper;

Whereas, on February 18, 1956, 2 days after Mr. Lewis gave his first public sermon, a relative of Mr. Lewis, Thomas Brewer of Columbus, Georgia, a voting rights activist working with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (referred to in this preamble as the “NAACP”), was shot to death by a white man who was never indicted for the murder;

Whereas Mr. Lewis joined the NAACP in the summer of 1956;

Whereas, in 1958, Mr. Lewis wrote a letter to Dr. King, who responded with a round trip bus ticket for Mr. Lewis to visit Montgomery, Alabama, where Mr. Lewis and Dr. King met at Reverend Ralph David Abernathy’s First Baptist Church;

Whereas, while a student at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee, Mr. Lewis—

(1) was a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (referred to in this preamble as the “SNCC”); and

(2) organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters, pushing Nashville to become the first major city in the South to begin the desegregation of public facilities;

Whereas Mr. Lewis graduated from the American Baptist Theological Seminary in 1961, and was subsequently ordained as a Baptist minister;

Whereas, in 1961, Mr. Lewis became one of the 13 original Freedom Riders, who challenged segregated interstate travel throughout the South;

Whereas, at just 23 years old, Mr. Lewis helped organize the 1964 March on Washington, at which—

(1) Dr. King gave his famous “I Have a Dream” speech; and

(2) Mr. Lewis vowed, in his address at the Lincoln Memorial, to “splinter the segregated South into a thousand pieces and put them back together in the image of God and democracy”;

Whereas Mr. Lewis led demonstrations against racially segregated hotels, restaurants, swimming pools, and public parks for which he was brutally beaten, left unconscious in his own blood, and arrested 40 times, spending countless nights in county jails and 37 days in Parchman Penitentiary;

Whereas, in 1963, as Chair of the SNCC, Mr. Lewis moved to Atlanta, Georgia;

Whereas, on March 7, 1965, on what would become known as “Bloody Sunday”, Mr. Lewis led 600 peaceful demonstrators demanding their right to vote across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, where Mr. Lewis, who suffered a fractured skull, and other demonstrators were met with violence and police brutality;

Whereas, after televised images of the Bloody Sunday violence in Selma shocked the conscience of the United States, President Lyndon B. Johnson called for equal voting rights legislation before a joint session of Congress, which evolved into his signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) on August 6, 1965;

Whereas, on December 21, 1968, Mr. Lewis married the love of his life, Lillian Miles, who was his best friend, closest ally, and most steadfast supporter until her death on December 31, 2012, the 45th anniversary of their meeting;

Whereas, in 1970, Mr. Lewis became director of the Voter Education Project, which added nearly 4,000,000 minority voters to the voter rolls and changed the political landscape of the United States forever;

Whereas, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Mr. Lewis to direct more than 250,000 volunteers of ACTION, which was then a Federal volunteer agency;

Whereas, in 1981, Mr. Lewis won elected office for the first time as an at-large Councilman on the Atlanta City Council, where he was a powerful advocate for ethics and neighborhood preservation, including saving from destruction the historic neighborhoods of the Old Fourth Ward, Inman Park, Candler Park, and Druid Hills;

Whereas, in 1982, Mr. Lewis worked with the American Jewish Committee to found the Atlanta Black-Jewish Coalition, part of his decades-long friendship and alliance with the Jewish community of Georgia, which later led to the establishment of the Congressional Black-Jewish caucus;

Whereas, in 1986, Mr. Lewis became the second African American to represent Georgia in Congress since Reconstruction;

Whereas Mr. Lewis fought for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-166; 105 Stat. 1071), which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush;

Whereas, in 2001, Mr. Lewis was awarded the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation Profile in Courage Award for “his extraordinary courage, leadership and commitment to civil rights”;

Whereas Mr. Lewis led the effort to build what is now known as the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, one of the largest Federal buildings in the United States;

Whereas, in 2003, Mr. Lewis secured authorization for construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington, DC;

Whereas, in 2007, Mr. Lewis introduced the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime

Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note; Public Law 110-344) to investigate unsolved civil rights crimes, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008;

Whereas, in 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Mr. Lewis the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States;

Whereas Mr. Lewis’ colleagues referred to him as the “conscience of the Congress” for his—

(1) relentless pursuit of justice;

(2) unflinching commitment to building what Dr. King and Mr. Lewis referred to as the “Beloved Community”, a society without poverty, racism, or violence; and

(3) willingness to make what he called “good trouble, necessary trouble” to confront acts of injustice; and

Whereas, on July 17, 2020, Mr. Lewis died, devastating his family, his staff, the City of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, and the people of the United States, who united to honor his monumental legacy of hard work and self-sacrifice in the pursuit of liberty and justice for all, which culminated in Mr. Lewis lying in state at the United States Capitol before his memorial service at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and legacy of John Robert Lewis, an American hero and civil rights leader who—

(A) faced brutality and suffered grievous injuries while remaining steadfastly committed to the nonviolent struggle for civil rights;

(B) dedicated his life to defending the dignity of all people and building the “Beloved Community”; and

(C) spent more than 3 decades as a Member of Congress defending and strengthening civil rights; and

(2) commends John Robert Lewis for his towering achievements in the nonviolent struggle for civil rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 83—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 20 THROUGH FEBRUARY 27, 2021, AS “NATIONAL FFA WEEK”, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION IN DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS WHO WILL CHANGE THE WORLD, AND CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISC, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 83

Whereas the National FFA Organization (referred to in this preamble as the “FFA”) was established in 1928;

Whereas the mission of the FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education;

Whereas the FFA has 760,113 members in 8,739 chapters in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC;

Whereas the FFA welcomes all students;

Whereas more than 13,000 FFA advisors and agricultural education teachers deliver an integrated model of agricultural education, providing students with an innovative and cutting-edge education;

Whereas 2021 marks 50 years of FFA Alumni and Supporters;

Whereas there are more than 8,000,000 FFA alumni worldwide; and

Whereas members of the FFA will celebrate “National FFA Week” during the week of February 20 through February 27, 2021: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of February 20 through February 27, 2021, as “National FFA Week”;

(2) recognizes the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing the next generation of leaders who will change the world; and

(3) celebrates 50 years of National FFA Organization Alumni and Supporters.

SENATE RESOLUTION 84—AMENDING THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO PROHIBIT THE CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE UNLESS THE TEXT OF THE LEGISLATION THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED HAS BEEN MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM FOR A MANDATORY MINIMUM REVIEW PERIOD

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 84

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PROHIBITING CONSIDERATION OF TEXT OF LEGISLATION UNTIL COMPLETION OF MANDATORY MINIMUM REVIEW PERIOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Rule XII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5)(a) It shall not be in order to consider a bill, joint resolution, resolution, or conference report unless the text of the bill, joint resolution, resolution, or conference report which will be considered has been publicly available in electronic form for the mandatory minimum review period.

“(b) Each Senator shall self certify that the Senator has read a bill, joint resolution, resolution, or conference report before voting on the bill, joint resolution, resolution, or conference report.

“(c) In this paragraph, the term ‘mandatory minimum review period’ means, with respect to a bill, joint resolution, resolution, or conference report, the greater of—

“(i) the period—

“(I) that begins with the first hour beginning after the text of the bill, joint resolution, resolution, or conference report which